

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Official Action mailed July 21, 2009 ("the Action"). Above, claims 1, 8, 18, 24, and 25 have been amended, and claims 2, 10, 12, and 19 have been canceled. No new claims have been added herein. Therefore, claims 1, 3-9, 11, 13-18, and 20-25 remain pending in the present case. The following sets forth Applicants' remarks pertaining to the currently pending claims and the Action.

As an initial matter, Applicants note that on September 9, 2009, the undersigned counsel placed a telephone call to the Examiner in the hopes of conducting an interview. After receiving an indication from the Examiner's outgoing message that she would be out of the office until subsequent the due date for responding to the Action, Applicants' counsel then spoke with the Examiner's supervisor. Applicants respectfully thank the supervisor for taking the time on September 9th to conduct that telephone discussion, in which he gave Applicants some suggestions in responding to the Action in view of the Examiner's absence. Although Applicants would have liked to have spoken with the Examiner regarding the Action prior to responding thereto, they determined the need to file the present Amendment, in which independent claims 1, 8, and 18 have been amended to include subject matter noted as allowable by the Examiner in the Action.

Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of noted allowable dependent claim 2, independent claim 8 has been amended to include the subject matter of noted allowable dependent claim 12 (as well as the subject matter of dependent claim 10), and independent claim 18 has been amended to include the subject matter of noted allowable dependent claim 19. Moreover, Applicants have corrected the minor spelling error the Examiner noted in allowable independent claim 25, as well as a similar spelling

error in independent claim 24. In light of these amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that each of independent claims 1, 8, 18, 24, and 25 are in condition for allowance. Given that the remaining claims properly depend from one of those independent claim or an intervening claims, Applicants respectfully request allowance of each and every one of the claims.

Applicants do note that they reserve the right to pursue any of the previously claimed or heretofore unclaimed subject matter of the present application in one or more continuing applications related to the present case. This is especially true in light of the fact that Applicants were not able to conduct a telephone discussion with the Examiner regarding the Action. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments made in the present response have been done so in order to expedite prosecution of this case, and in no way do Applicants admit that they are not due broader protection for the present invention.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which she might have.

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If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: October 7, 2009

Respectfully submitted,
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